Transfer of computer technology

2729. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to transfer technology to the rural areas through computers;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to popularise the use of computers among the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Government is attempting to ensure that computer technology, which is progressively becoming available, at falling prices, should be availed of to improve productivity in all secters of the national economy.

Studies are being conducted to find out how computers can be useful to the rural areas. A nation-wide network of computers is being installed which will terminate in micro-computers being set up at district headquarters. These eventually would assist the district authorities in planning and project monitoring and in collecting data necessary for state or central planning.

Department of Electronics and Ministry of Education are jointly conducting a Pilot Project, Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) to familiarise students with computers and their possible applications. The Pilot Project is proposed to cover 750 schools by March, 1986. After its successful completion, it could be extended to schools in the rural areas.

The other steps include monitoring of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) information to check the proper implementation of the Project. This monitoring is over and above the regular monitoring of inputs and achievements. A scheme is also being worked out to computerise the land records in some "Pilot States" to improve the availability of land record statistics at the district level.

Ganga Action Plan

2730. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised the operation of cleansing Ganga;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in the process;

(d) by when the operation would be completed; and

(e) what would be the likely cost of the operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) An Action Plan for the Prevention of Pollution of river Ganga has been prepared.

(b) As per enclosed Statement.

(c) Work on schemes approved under the Action Plan has commenced in Haridwar and Rishikesh.

(d) Schemes approved under the Action plan in the first phase are expected to be completed within the 7th Five Year Plan period.

(e) The cost of the first phase has been tentatively estimated at about Rs. 250 crores.

Statement

Ganga Action Plan

The broad outlines of the scheme for the cleaning of the Ganga are the following.

The immediate reduction of pollution load (leading eventually to total prevention) on the river and the establishment of self-sustaining treatment plant systems are the two objectives of the Action Plan in the first phase. Accordingly, the following have been identified as the components of the Action Plan:

1. Renovation (cleaning|desilting|repairing) of existing trunk sewers and outfalls.
2. Constructing of interceptors to divert flow of sewage and other wastes into Ganga.
3. Renovation of existing sewage pumping stations and sewage treatment and installation of new ones.
4. Bringing human and animal wastes from locations proximate to the sewage|sullage digesters for sanitary disposal, production of energy and manure.
5. Providing sullage or sewage pumping stations.
6. Alternative arrangements to prevent discharge of animal and human wastes from cattle sheds.
7. Low cost sanitation schemes.
8. Biological conservation measures.
9. Pilot projects to establish cost effective system for diversion of wastes.
10. Pilot projects to establish feasibility of technology applications in the treatment of wastes and resources/ energy recovery.

The project essentially aims to prevent pollution of the Ganga by the municipal wastes from 27 class I cities situated on its banks.

Crossing of borders by people of Jammu and Kashmir

2731. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from Jammu and Kashmir holding Indian passports and valid visas are required to cross the border from Amritsar side;

(b) whether Government propose to allow such people to cross borders from Suchetgarh and Jammu side; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Survey of living and non-living resources of the Indian Ocean

2732. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has intensively surveyed the living and non-living resources of the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exploratory survey of living resources has been going on in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India both for demersal and pelagic fisheries. For the Non-Living resources, the surveys include the identification of various types of minerals. Mapping of minerals in the entire western continental shelf and one-third of the eastern continental shelf of India has been completed, resulting in an understanding of placer deposits of ilmenite, rutile, zircon, phosphorite and monazite with varying proportions of magnetite and garnet.

As regards survey of the Central Indian Ocean, India has made considerable progress. Our country has been recognised as a Pioneer Investor and after detailed surveys in the Central Indian Ocean covering